

ting in the White House. We've already gotten as much mail in the first 3 months, somebody told me yesterday, as my predecessor did in a whole year. And I say that not to criticize him or to laud myself. That has nothing to do with it. A lot of it's critical; that's good. We've opened the doors of possibility to people, and they think, maybe, just maybe their Government is going to listen to them again.

That's why I feel so strongly about all these political empowerment bills. That's why I believe in the motor voter bill—I'm glad we got a conference report on it—because it will say to kids, we want you to vote. That's why I believe in the work the Vice President is doing to literally not just save money but change the whole way Government operates and make it more friendly to people who want to access it. That's why I feel so strongly that the House did the right thing in passing that enhanced rescission bill. That's why I believe we ought to pass a campaign finance reform bill, not because I don't want you to give but because I want them to be able to give, too. And I want people to believe that everybody has got a stake in the system. Because if we can reconnect those people to the system, then they will understand that change is a long and hard road.

In 1918, the famous German sociologist, Max Weber, said that politics is the long and slow boring of hard bores. We have come to the hard part. Mario Cuomo used to say, "You campaign in poetry, and you have to govern in prose." The time has come for the prose. And people need to read it straight and clean and clear from the shoulder, with all the varnish off, as honestly as we can.

We are being called upon now to see whether we have the courage and the discipline and the will and the vision to change. I believe we do. And I came here tonight not only because I want you to keep your jobs but because I hope if we can live to be 88 or 90 years old, like Bill Fulbright and Mike Mansfield, we can look back and say, this was a time when we lifted America to new heights, we met our challenges, and we did our jobs.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 p.m. at the Washington Hilton. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **Remarks Welcoming Home Military Personnel from Somalia**

*May 5, 1993*

To all of our distinguished guests from all the services, to General Powell and the Joint Chiefs, Secretary Aspin, Mr. Vice President, ladies and gentlemen, and especially to General Johnston and the men and women of the Unified Task Force in Somalia.

General Johnston has just reported to me: Mission accomplished. And so, on behalf of all the American people, I say to you, General, and to all whom you brought with you: Welcome home, and thank you for a job very, very well done.

You represent the thousands who served in this crucial operation, in the First Marine Expeditionary Force, in the Army 10th Mountain Division, aboard the Navy's Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group, in the Air Force and Air National Guard airlift squadrons, and in other units in each of our services. Over 30,000 American military personnel served at sometime in these last 5 months in Somalia. And serving alongside you were thousands of others from 20 nations.

Although your mission was humanitarian and not combat, you nonetheless faced difficult and dangerous conditions. You sometimes were subjected to abuse and forced to dodge rocks and even bullets. You saw firsthand the horror of hunger, disease, and death. But you pressed on with what you set out to do, and you were successful. You have served in the best tradition of the Armed Forces of the United States, and you have made the American people very, very proud.

In the weeks to come, we will formally recognize the contributions of those who participated in Operation Restore Hope. But earlier today, to honor their accomplishments and that of all who supported that effort, I awarded to General Johnston the Defense Distinguished Service Medal in recognition not only of his extraordinary service but also of

all those who served with him so well. Thank you all for your dedicated work.

To understand the magnitude of what our forces in Somalia accomplished, the world need only look back at Somalia's condition just 6 months ago. Hundreds of thousands of people were starving; armed anarchy ruled the land and the streets of every city and town. Today, food is flowing; crops are growing; schools and hospitals are reopening. Although there is still much to be done if enduring peace is to prevail, one can now envision a day when Somalia will be reconstructed as a functioning civil society.

If all of you who served had not gone, it is absolutely certain that tens of thousands would have died by now. You saved their lives. You gave the people of Somalia the opportunity to look beyond starvation and focus on their future and the future of their children. Although you went on a mission of peace, eight Americans did not return. We salute each of them. We thank them and their families. America will never forget what they did or what they gave. To their loved ones we extend our hearts and our prayers.

As we honor the service of those who have returned and those who did not, it is fitting that we reflect on what the successful mission signifies for the future. This, the largest humanitarian relief operation in history, has written an important new chapter in the international annals of peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

You have shown that the work of the just can prevail over the arms of the warlords. You have demonstrated that the world is ready to mobilize its resources in new ways to face the challenges of a new age. And you have proved yet again that American leadership can help to mobilize international action to create a better world.

You also leave behind a U.N. peacekeeping force with a significant American component. This force is a reflection of the new era we have entered, for it has Americans participating in new ways. Just hours ago, General Johnston turned over command to General Bir of Turkey as UNTAF became UNOSOM II. You set the stage and made it possible for that force to do its mission and for the Somalis to complete the work

of rebuilding and creating a peaceful, self-sustaining, and democratic civil society.

Your successful return reminds us that other missions lie ahead for our Nation. Some we can foresee, and others we cannot. As always we stand ready to defend our interests, working with others where possible and by ourselves where necessary. But increasingly in this new era, we will need to work with an array of multinational partners, often in new arrangements. You have proved again that that is possible. You have proved again that our involvement in multilateral efforts need not be open-ended or ill-defined, that we can go abroad and accomplish some distinct objectives, and then come home again when the mission is accomplished.

Some will ask why, if the cold war ended, we must still support the world's greatest military forces, the kind that General Johnston and his comrades represent. I say it is because we still have interests; we still face threats; we still have responsibilities. The world has not seen the end of evil, and America can lead other countries to share more of the responsibilities that they ought to be shouldering.

Some will ask why we must so often be the one to lead. Well, of course we cannot be the world's policeman, but we are, and we must continue to be, the world's leader. That is the job of the United States of America. And so today, America opens its arms in a hearty welcome home.

General, to you and all the men and women who served with you, you have the admiration of the world and the thanks of your country for continuing the tradition of our Armed Forces and the values that make us proud to be Americans and for proving that we can lead and serve in new ways in a new world.

In the words of the Scriptures: Blessed are the peacemakers. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:37 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Robert B. Johnston, USMC, Commander, Operation Restore Hope.

### Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Congressional Leaders

May 5, 1993

#### **Bosnia**

**Q.** Mr. President, will you be going to Congress to get authorization before any troops would be sent to Bosnia?

**The President.** We're here consulting about Bosnia today, and I have been extensively consulting, and no decision has been made by this administration about this yet. So when I do, then we'll continue to have proper process.

**Q.** Do you think the War Powers Act is constitutional?

**The President.** Ask my lawyer. I don't play lawyer. I think it's worked reasonably well.

**Q.** How do you think the vote will go in the Serb parliament?

**The President.** I don't know. I hope they'll not only vote for it, I hope they'll observe it, which is two different issues. We have to start our meeting here in a minute, but I think one of the things that we have to discuss is that we want an agreement in words and an agreement in fact. And that's what we've got to watch.

**Q.** Are you feeling any comfort in what Mr. Christopher is saying? It sounds as though he's running into roadblocks.

**The President.** No, I talked to him several times since he's been on the trip. I'm pretty pleased, actually, with the progress he's made. We're in a much different place and much nearer agreement than we were 10 or 12 days ago.

**Q.** Have you and Senator Dole made up?

**The President.** Absolutely. I agree with what he said yesterday.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### Remarks in Honor of National Nurses Week and an Exchange With Reporters

May 5, 1993

**The President.** Thank you very much, Ginny, for that wonderful statement and the introduction. And thank you, Secretary Shalala, for everything you said. I noticed a few groans in the audience when you pointed out that Dorothea Dix worked for nothing. I don't think she was suggesting that you do that, I think she was volunteering to do that, don't you think? [Laughter]

I want to say, you know, I knew nurses were miracle workers, having been raised by one. But I don't see how you staved off the rain today. When I first heard 100 nurses were going to be here I thought to myself, what else can I do? I've given up junk food. I run every day. What more do you want of me? [Laughter] I'm doing my part.

I want to say a special word of acknowledgement, too, to the nurses who are in this audience who work here at the White House, who care for me and my family and are available to the other people who work here. They do a wonderful job, and I'm very grateful to them. And they're here and there and around, and I thank them for their presence here.

I'd also like to pay a special word of tribute to your president, Ginny Trotter Betts, for hanging it out there with us in the election and bringing the support for the American Nurses Association and also for being such a forceful advocate of sweeping reforms in our health care system. Hillary and I very much appreciate the work that she and the Nurses Association have done. And I know that she's also an old friend of Al and Tipper Gore's, and they're grateful, too, for her contributions.

I'd also like to recognize some of the other people who are here today, including a remarkable nurse whose presence in the Congress is a symbol of your political strength, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson from Dallas and my dear friend. She's really a tribute to the practice of good health. I've known her for 20 years, and I look much older, and she looks younger than she did the first time we met.